

Between the Boulevards

October 2013

Published by the Boulevard Manor Civic Association for the residents of Boulevard Manor, including Spy Hill, Stone Ridge and Park View

BMCA Vote Scheduled for Wilson Blvd. Resolution

At the October 21 general meeting, the BMCA membership will vote on a motion recommending that the County study options for improving conditions on Wilson Boulevard between George Mason Drive and the western County line. The wording of the motion follows:

Background

BMCA values the safety of all users on Wilson Boulevard and the roads of the Boulevard Manor neighborhood. We recognize that many of the sidewalks along Wilson Boulevard do not meet County and ADA safety standards, and we appreciate the efforts of the Bluemont Civic Association and the Dominion Hills Civic Association to improve these sidewalks. As part of the Ashlawn addition project, the APS transportation consultant, Toole Design Group, recommended that Wilson Blvd. be reconfigured between Patrick Henry Drive and George Mason Drive to improve conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists and facilitate safer access of students to school. BMCA also acknowledges that the Arlington County Transportation Commission recommended to the Board at its meeting on May 7, 2013, a reconfiguration of Wilson Blvd. between Glebe Road and the western edge of the Ashlawn School district in order to improve safety and facilitate active transportation in the corridor.

Motion

BMCA recommends that the County study all options to improve conditions for pedestrians and all other users between George Mason Drive and the western County line. Options to be studied should include, but are not limited to, reconfiguring the street, widening sidewalks, and undergrounding utilities. BMCA does not recommend a specific design solution at this time.

In considering this proposal, we request that the County include a BMCA representative in any consultations or deliberations, and to give particular attention to:

- ▶ The safety of children, older adults living in the Sunrise retirement community and surrounding neighborhoods, and all motorists and non-motorists going to and from Ashlawn Elementary School
- ▶ Ensuring that any efforts to improve safety along Wilson Boulevard do not inadvertently lead to adverse

Boulevard Manor Civic Association

General Meeting

Monday, October 21, 7:00 p.m.

Church of the Brethren

300 N. Montague St.

At the beginning of our autumn meeting, BMCA members will vote on the motion regarding sidewalk improvements on Wilson Boulevard (see article). After the vote, William Roberts, Transportation Program Manager from Arlington County, will discuss the plans to extend 8th Road N. to Wilson Blvd. The proposed extension would provide Arlington Public Schools buses direct access to Ashlawn from Wilson Blvd.

For more information, contact BMCA President Claudia Maloney at president@boulevardmanor.org or 703-237-8721.

effects on Manchester Street, Livingston Street, and other streets in Boulevard Manor

- ▶ Ensuring the continued flow of traffic along Wilson Boulevard while discouraging speeding
- ▶ Evaluating the potential impact of any changes to the roadway on planned bus improvements in the corridor
- ▶ Bicycle safety on Wilson Boulevard

Note: BMCA NCP Report section 3-20 recommends that we provide adequate width sidewalks and stairs in all identified locations where the facilities' are missing, in need of repairs, or too narrow for use by handicapped persons.

3rd Annual BMCA Veterans Day Dinner

The civic association will host a dinner on Veterans Day, Monday, November 11, beginning at 6:30pm at Arlington Community Church (corner of Wilson Blvd. and N. Livingston St.). This event enables neighbors, family and children to honor our veterans. There is no cost to attend. BMCA will collect voluntary donations to two important Veteran's charities, Fisher House and Wounded Warriors.

Unlike the previous dinners, this year's event is not a potluck. Catered by Rocklands, the dinner will feature pulled chicken, pulled beef, and side dishes. If you have any questions or would like to help in the arrangements for the dinner, please contact hospitality chair Carlin Schwartz at CarlinSchwartz@boulevardmanor.org.

Ashlawn "Walking School Bus" Launches

In a new program designed to increase the number of students walking to school, a group of parent volunteers and about 20 children have begun walking to school together along three routes in the Boulevard Manor neighborhood. The "walking school bus" concept has been successful in many communities around the country. Each Wednesday, the group walks to Ashlawn along a designated route, with "stops" along the way where additional children can join the group.

Benefits of the walking school bus include enabling parents to share the task of getting children to school, providing an opportunity for exercise, reducing traffic and improving air quality near Ashlawn, and giving children a chance to socialize and make new friends. The walking school bus is intended to address concerns, identified in a 2012 transportation study, which had prevented Ashlawn parents from allowing their children to walk to school.

If you would like your children to participate in the Ashlawn walking school bus program and/or are interested in volunteering as a leader, please contact Tamara Gelboin at TamaraGelboin@boulevardmanor.org.

Dominion Hills Craft Show Returns Nov. 2

The Tenth Annual Dominion Hills Fall Craft Show will present the work 12 local and regional artisans. Crafts available for viewing and purchase will include paintings, jewelry, stationery, scarves, pottery, bath and body products, glassware, and sweets. Admission is free.

The show will be held Saturday, November 2, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, in the community house at the Dominion Hills Area Recreation Association, 6000 Wilson Blvd. For more information, contact Julie Jernigan at 703-533-0957 or jules@julesjewelsjewelry.com.

Annual Soup & Pie Bazaar

The Arlington Church of the Brethren will hold its annual Soup & Pie Bazaar on Saturday, November 2, from 9:00am to 2:00pm. All neighbors are invited to the church at 300



Held September 15, the BMCA annual picnic reunited neighbors at Upton Hill Regional Park.

N. Montague St. to enjoy homemade soups and pies. Yard sale items, baked goods, and fair trade handicrafts from around the world will be sold. A Heifer International table will offer "Shares of an Animal" to help farmers in developing countries. For more information, contact the church at 703-524-4100 or acob@arlingtoncob.org.

11th Annual Caroling Event

Neighbors will celebrate the season by gathering at the Sunrise retirement community to sing holiday songs and sharing refreshments afterward. Carolers of all ages are invited meet on Sunday, December 15, 4:00pm at the James Building (the Sunrise building closest to Wilson Blvd.). A potluck dinner will follow at Claudia Maloney's house, 5951 8th Road N. For questions, contact Claudia at president@boulevardmanor.org or 703-237-8721.

Reminder: 2013 Membership Dues

Have you paid your 2013 dues for membership in the Boulevard Manor Civic Association? If you are not sure, or if you wish to become a new member, use the "Check Membership" feature at www.boulevardmanor.org. From the menu on the left side of the home page, select Membership. At the bottom of the Membership page, select Check Membership. Depending on whether you are a new or existing member, you will follow instructions to either input or confirm your contact information. Both pathways lead to a link to PayPal, where you can pay BMCA membership dues using a major credit card or through a PayPal account. To protect members' privacy, you must enter the e-mail address stored in BMCA membership records to verify a paid membership.

If you prefer not to use PayPal, you may download a hard copy membership form, complete it, and mail it with your 2013 dues payment to BMCA membership chair Matt Smith.